Department at pages 229–30 of Volume II of the Administration Report for 1926–27 which gives a statement of the work carried on in the cultivation of the industry by the Forest Department.

A copy of the report [a] on the work carried on during the year 1927–28 is appended.

The Government have recently deputed the Deputy Forest Utilization Officer who has made some study of the subject in Mysore for the study of lac cultivation in Bihar and Orissa.

Stamps

Sale of court-fee stamps up to Rs. 100 through stamp-vendors.

*1137-A *Q.*—Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the report called for from the Board of Revenue regarding the sale of court-fee stamps up to Rs. 100 through stamp-vendors referred to in the answer to question No. 246 answered on 8th September 1928 has been received;

(*b*) what the opinion of the Board is on the subject; and

(*c*) whether the Government have arrived at any decision thereon and what it is?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The Board's report has been received and is under the consideration of the Government.

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI:—"For how long has it been under consideration?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"The Board's report was received only recently."

Sale of court-fee stamps up to Rs. 100 through stamp-vendors.

*1137-B *Q.*—Mr. MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether the Government have now come to any decision on the question of selling court-fee stamps up to Rs. 100 through stamp-vendors?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to Question No. 1137-A.

Allowances

City allowance to officers in the Education Department.

*1138 *Q.*—Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that, while officers of certain departments posted to the city are granted a city allowance, officers of other departments are denied this allowance;

(*b*) who are the officers entitled to city allowance;

(*c*) why officers of certain departments alone are allowed a city allowance while those of other departments are not;

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a Printed as Appendix XII on page 308 infra.

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(*d*) whether it is a fact that officers of the Education department posted to the city are not allowed the city allowance ; and

(*e*) whether the Government will consider their claim for the city allowance with sympathy and observe a uniform policy in the matter of granting the city allowance ?

A.—(*a*) & (*d*) There is no such distinction between departments, but within the Educational department officers of the scholastic and collegiate branches are not given Presidency allowance.

(*b*) The attention of the hon. Member is referred to the list under Class V—Allowance on pages 24—28 of Volume II of the Madras Manual of Special Pay and Allowances.

(*c*) Does not arise.

(*e*) The matter is under the consideration of Government.

11-30 a.m. Mr. Abdul Hamid Khan :—" May I know, if the Director of Public Instruction had already made his proposal and that that proposal was turned down by the Finance Department ? "

The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir :—" The matter is under the consideration of the Government ; I don't understand how any proposal could be turned down before orders are issued."

Mr. Abdul Hamid Khan :—" May I know if that part of the Government which is called the Finance Department is favourably considering that question ? "

The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir :—" The answer is given in clause (*e*), Sir."

Railways

Number of strikers who have resumed works in the South Indian Railway.

* 1139 *Q.*—Mr. S. Satyamurti : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of railway workers who have joined the workshops of the South Indian Railway since the termination of the last strike ;

(*b*) the number who have not still joined ; and

(*c*) whether the Government propose to take any action in the matter and, if not, why not ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The information is not available with Government.

(*c*) No. The matter is one concerning the internal administration of the railway and, as the hon. Member is aware, " Railways " is a Central subject.

Arms and ammunition

Suspension of the gun licence to Mr. White.

* 1140 *Q.*—Mr. C. S. Govindaraja Mudaliyar : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state, with reference to answers to question No. 853 given on 29th November 1928 by the hon. the Law Member—

(*a*) the reasons why Mr. White who was convicted of having caused the death of a man in the Madras Harbour premises by a rifle shot is permitted to possess a rifle under a licence ;